Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 DODE-00 FEA-01 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00 SS-15 /099 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8755

INFO ERDA HO WASHDC

ERDA HQ GERMANTOWN

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, PARM, AR

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE NUCLEAR PROGRAM

ALSO FOR NRC

1. S & T COUNSELOR/ERDA SCIREP MADE INITIAL COURTESY CALL ON DR. JORGE ANTONIO COLL, WHO HAS RETURNED FROM IRAN AND IS CURRENTLY SECRETARY GENERAL AND CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS FOR CNEA. WE HELD GENERAL TOUR D'HORIZON ON NUCLEAR MATTERS WHICH IS DESCRIBED IN MEMCOM TO FOLLOW. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST WERE FOLLOWING:

(A) REPORCESSING. CNEA PLANS TO GRADUALLY COMPLETE PILOT PLANT AND INTENDS TO USE THIS TO REPROCESS RA-3 FUEL. CNEA IS AWARE OF U.S. RIGHTS OF REVIEW OF THIS PLANT UNDER ARTICLE XII OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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U.S. ARGENTINE BILATERAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENT OF JUNE 25, 1969. THERE ARE DEFINITELY NO RPT NO FIRM PLANS TO MOVE TO POWER REACTOR FUEL REPROCESSING, WHICH IS A SUBJECT FOR THE DISTANT FUTURE.

(B) NEW RESEARCH REACTOR. THE NEW RESEARCH REACTOR (60 MW ACCORDING TO A PRESS REPORT) IS IN THE EARLY PLANNING STAGES.

IT IS TO BE DESIGNED FOR ISOTOPE PRODUCTION AND MATERIALS TESTING PURPOSES PRIMARILY, AND AT THIS STAGE THERE IS A (NATURAL) INTERNAL CONFLICT AMONG THESE TWO GROUPS AND THE REACTOR DESIGNERS AS TO THE NATURE OF THE DESIGN AND HOW IT SHOULD BE OPTIMIZED. CONTRARY TO THE PRESS REPORT, IT IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR THAT THE DESIGN WILL BE A NATURAL URANIUM-HEAVY WATER REACTOR. IN FACT IT MAY WELL TURN OUT TO BE AN ENRICHED URANIUM REACTOR AND COULD PERHAPS BE SIMILAR TO THE BR-2 AT MOL.

2. EXTENSIVE REPORT ON ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS ALSO IN PREPARATION AND WILL FOLLOW BY POUCH. HILL

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Message Attributes

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Subject: ARGENTINE NUCLEAR PROGRAM ALSO FOR NRC TAGS: TECH, PARM, AR, IR, (COLL, JORGE ANTONIO)

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